

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 091308Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5831

UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 1134

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BY

SUBJ: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

REF : (A) STATE 289657, (B) BUJUMBURA 1110

1. POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE MR. AIMABLE NIBISHAKA, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE BURUNDI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR THE SUBJECT PROGRAM. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT BOTH THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL AND WOULD LIKE TO SEND NIBISHAKA TO THE U.S. TO OBTAIN IDEAS FROM HIS OBSERVATIONS OF AMERICAN PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCE WITH VARIOUS TRAINING APPROACHES. WHILE THIS NOMINATION WAS NOT OUTLINED IN OUR ORIGINAL COUNTRY PLAN, IT IS QUITE CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN'S GOAL OF ASSISTING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THIS COUNTRY. NIBISHAKA HAS RECENTLY ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION, BUT HE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SECONDARY EDUCATION BOTH IN THE INTERIOR AND IN BUJUMBURA SINCE 1965 AND HENCE WOULD APPEAR TO BE A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED CANDIDATE FOR THE PROGRAM.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: NIBISHAKA WAS BORN JULY 7, 1941 AT RUHENGERI, RWANDA; HE WAS NATURALIZED AS A BURUNDI CITIZEN IN 1971. HE ATTENDED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BUJUMBURA AT THE COLLEGE DE ST. ESPIRT, GRADUATING IN 1961. HE WAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE IN BELGIUM FROM 1961 TO 1965 WHERE HE OBTAINED A "LICENSE" IN LETTERS. HIS FIRST JOB THEREAFTER WAS AS DIRECTOR OF THE IMPORTANT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MATANA, UNCLASSIFIED

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BURURI PROVINCE, BURUNDI FROM 1965 TO 1972. AFTERWARDS

HE BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF THE ATHENEE OF BUJUMBURA FROM 1972 TO HIS APPOINTMENT IN 1976 AS DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, A NEWLY CREATED OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. HE HAS TRAVELED IN WESTERN EUROPE AND EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. HE STUDIED ENGLISH IN SECONDARY SCHOOL BUT HIS FACILITY IN IT RESULTS MORE FROM HIS FREQUENT TRIPS TO UGANDA TO VISIT HIS FATHER. WHILE HIS ORAL ENGLISH IS A BIT RUSTY AT THE MOMENT, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, AFTER AN INTERVIEW IN ENGLISH WITH HIM, THAT THE FOUNDATION IS THERE AND THAT WITH SOME INTENSIVE TUTORING WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE HIM IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, HE WILL HAVE A SATISFACTORY LEVEL FOR USEFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT (IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND BURUNDIANS WITH THE REQUISITE ENGLISH FOR MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS; THIS IS THE FIRST OCCASION WHEN WE HAVE FOUND AN OFFICIAL WHOSE QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH APPEARS TO US TO BE MINIMALLY ADEQUATE). HE ALSO SPEAKS FRENCH, KIRUNDI, SWAHILI AND FLEMISH. HE IS MARRIED WITH FIVE CHILDREN (FOUR GIRLS AGED 9, 6, 4 AND 1 AND ONE BOY AGED 8). HIS WIFE, CANDIDE, WORKS AS THE CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AT THE BURUNDI SAVINGS ASSOCIATION. NIBISHAKA IS A TALL, SLENDOR, GOOD LOOKING INDIVIDUAL WITH A QUICK SMILE AND A VERY PLEASANT MANNER. THE CULTURAL CENTER'S ACQUAINTANCE WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ATHENEE WAS A POSITIVE ONE; HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A DEDICATED EDUCATOR AND WAS AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL DIRECTOR. HE LIKES TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL AND SEE MOVIES IN HIS SPARE TIME. HE HAS ALSO WORKED OFTEN IN HIS SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ORGANIZE SCHOOL PLAYS. HE IS CATHOLIC; THERE ARE NO DIETARY OR CULTURAL RESTRICTIONS. HIS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ARE: B.P. 2036, BUJUMBURA; 43-58.

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